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(71) Applicants:
• CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA
Tokyo (JP)
• Canon Information Systems Research Pty Ltd.
North Ryde, New South Wales 2113 (AU)

(72) Inventors:
• Yip, Dominic
Lindfield, New South Wales 2070 (AU)
• Elbourne, Trevor Robert
Fairlight, New South Wales 2094 (AU)
• Patel, Hiren
West Ryde, New South Wales 2114 (AU)

(74) Representative: Beresford, Keith Denis Lewis
BERESFORD & Co.
2-5 Warwick Court
High Holborn
London WC1R 5DJ (GB)

(54) An encoding method and apparatus

(57) An apparatus for the encoding of a series of wavelet coefficients of a predetermined size into a compact representation of the coefficients is disclosed, the apparatus comprising tree building means for constructing a tree form representation of the coefficients with leaf nodes representing coefficient values and internal nodes representing the number of bits needed to encode leaf nodes and child nodes of a current internal node, the tree building means storing the tree form representation in a tree buffer means; tree buffer means for

storing the tree form representation; tree coding means interconnected to the tree buffer means and adapted to read a current tree form representation and to output the encoding from the tree form representation. The tree buffer means can include means for storing at least two tree form representations and the tree building means can be adapted to form a first of the representations while the tree coding means can be adapted to read a second of the tree form representations previously created by the tree building means.

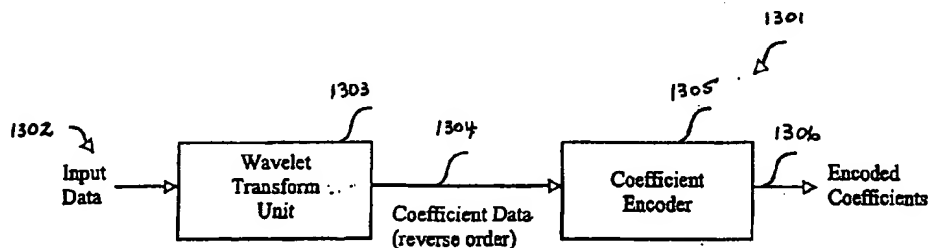


Fig. 13

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